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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. DICKEY].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 8, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable JAY DICK-
EY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] for 5 minutes.

CLEARING OUT GUANTANAMO

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I have said it before and I will say it again: The problem in Cuba is Fidel Castro and until Castro is gone the United States cannot and should not normalize relations with the closest of our Caribbean neighbors. Indeed, we should tighten the embargo, not relax it. Last week, many of my colleagues were surprised to learn that I consider the administration's new Cuban immigration policy a positive step in the right direction.

As a Representative from Florida who does not support normalizing rela-

tions with Castro's Cuba, I believe that we must take steps to regularize Cuban immigration, to bring order to what has been a chaotic situation for far too long. Last year, the President and his foreign policy team created a problem—this year we are trying to deal with the mess left over from some sloppy efforts at a Caribbean policy.

Now there are no good choices, only necessary choices. Why? Because sitting in Guantanamo are more than 21,000 Cuban refugees and several hundred Haitians. Even after the current paroling process is completed, the White House expects there will still be more than 15,000 refugees, mostly young men, left in primitive, stressful, living conditions. Add to that an infinite boredom, a hopeless future, and a long hot summer and you have ignition for launching a disaster.

My last trip to Guantanamo was in March with Senator BOB GRAHAM. We came back deeply concerned about the situation, about the cost of running the camp, and about the clear security risk for our troops in Guantanamo if something was not done soon. The administration's new approach should at least diffuse this potentially explosive situation. Those 15,000 young men, who have fled from Castro's Cuba now have a realistic hope they will not waste away in a Guantanamo containment camp. Under the agreement, the administration plans to use 15,000 of the existing 60,000 Cuban visa slots for the next 3 years for an orderly exodus of the refugees from Guantanamo—a camp that American taxpayers are paying \$1 million a day to run. In addition, the agreement seeks to head off future inundations of refugees by providing a safer, fully organized Cuban Immigration Program for those yet to come from Castro's Cuba. The continuing visa allowances will enable significant numbers of Cubans to take refuge in our country through orderly chan-

nels and without risking their lives on the high seas. Obviously, good screening processes will be necessary by the Coast Guard to ensure no political refugees picked up on the high seas will be repatriated in hot pursuit or life-threatening situations. This will require constant and effective human rights monitoring.

Handled properly, the administration's new approach could disarm one of Castro's most effective gambits—the deliberate victimization of his people by releasing them as waves of refugees to pressure the United States on foreign policy matters. If this agreement works, it should have the net effect of drastically reducing the danger of another Mariel overwhelming Florida's shores and resources. It should also have the added bonus of allowing the Federal Government—rather than the State of Florida—to cope with the impacts of Cuban migration. That means that all Americans, not just Floridians, will provide locations and will share the financial cost of resettling refugees in an orderly, organized way.

Of course, there remain plenty of issues to be dealt with. Impacted States will have to work with the Federal Government to ensure that costs are reimbursed. And the Clinton administration has to perform the difficult task of providing monitoring for those repatriated to Castro's Cuba—the new Clinton policy will all fall apart quickly and completely if we find we are in any way aiding Castro's regime to commit human rights violations on political opponents or on those just simply seeking more freedom.

Finally, it demands emphasis that we have an obligation to the Cuban people as well as ourselves not to let up the pressure on the brutal, oppressive, regime of Fidel Castro, even while we work on ways to put more safety and order in the way we accommodate present and future refugees. That

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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means a stepped-up embargo and working for a commitment from our allies to cut off Castro's economic lifeblood.

The ultimate solution to the refugee problem and the key to a free and democratic life for Cubans is not to bring them all to America. The solution is to bring Cuba out of the cold war by ending the regime of Fidel Castro. And that, Mr. Speaker, is the bottom line. Fidel Castro is still what is wrong. We cannot escape that fact, but we can help change it.

CONGRESS MUST SAVE STUDENT LOANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, House Republicans will release their long-awaited and overdue budget proposal. While much of the public attention has focused on the Republican plan to cut Medicare, there is another aspect of the plan that is equally troublesome. The GOP budget plan cuts \$12.4 billion over the next 5 years from the Stafford Student Loan Program. These cuts translate into the largest increase in college tuition costs in history.

In Connecticut, the Republican cuts in student aid would mean that 39,000 students would pay \$127 million more for college over 5 years. By eliminating interest-deferred Stafford loans, Republicans will add \$4,547 to the cost of an education for the average college student in Connecticut. Now, \$4,500 may not be much money to NEWT GINGRICH or DICK ARMEY, but I assure you that \$4,500 is plenty to working families in my district. It is plenty of money to Gail Baxter of West Haven, CT.

Just recently, I met Gail at a student loan forum I sponsored. Gail told me that she was worried about what cuts in student loan programs would mean for her family. And, it is no wonder she is worried. You see, Gail is a single mother who, in the fall of 1995, will have four children in college. That means four college tuitions. And, under the Republican plan, it means four increases of \$4,500. All totaled the Republican plan to cut student loans, could cost this working family nearly \$20,000.

But, any single mother who can get four children to college, is not someone who throws up her hands when faced with an obstacle. And, Gail Baxter wasn't about to take these student loan cuts sitting down. So, she got to work and started a petition drive. I told her if she collected the signatures that I would deliver them to the chairman of the House Budget Committee. In just a few weeks time, Gail collected the signatures of 630 parents, like herself.

The petition simply reads: We the undersigned oppose any attempts to cut

Federal student assistance that assist hard-working American families.

Like the parents who signed Gail Baxter's petition, students in my district are also concerned about cuts in student aid. They do not think it is right that government cut student loans in order to pay for another tax cut for the wealthy. And, they are right.

Students from Quinnipiac College in Hamden, CT, organized a letter writing campaign to bring their message to Congress. The wrote hundreds of letters to various leaders in Congress. Here is one sample from Laurel Drumm of Quinnipiac College. She writes:

Recent reports suggest you are considering the biggest cuts in the history of student aid. While we applaud congressional efforts for responsible deficit reduction, cuts in student aid just don't make sense. Student aid actually saves taxpayers money by stimulating economic growth, expanding the tax base and increasing productivity. That's why every major opinion poll shows strong support for student aid programs.

The cuts under consideration would increase the student loan indebtedness by up to 50 percent and reduce grants and work-study funding. The bottom line is these cuts will make a college education unobtainable for many of us.

The opportunity to go to college is a privilege that should be everyone's right. Please don't cut our future short. Don't cut student aid.

Mr. Speaker, student loans are the ladder to the American dream. Many of us in this body relied on student loans to pay for our educations. Let us not pull up the ladder of opportunity behind us. The Gail Baxters and the Laurel Drumms of the world are counting on us to do what is right and save student loans.

JOB SKILLS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KNOLLENBERG] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Job Skills Development Act of 1995. This bill amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to ease the restrictions on volunteers.

The FLSA requires covered employers to compensate individuals defined as "employees" according to mandatory minimum wage and overtime requirements. While there are exceptions to the employer-employee relationship for volunteers, the restrictions on permissible volunteer activities are excessively rigid.

As a result, individuals seeking to gain valuable work experience and exposure in a competitive profession by volunteering their services to an employer are often prohibited from doing so, even if the individual has no expectation of receiving compensation and adamantly denies that they are an employee.

When determining whether or not an individual is a volunteer and exempt from the minimum wage and overtime requirements of the FLSA, the Department of Labor and the Federal courts take into consideration the type of services provided by an individual, who benefits from the rendering of the services, and how long it takes to provide the services.

Because business-related services are not considered to be typical volunteer activities, individuals are often prohibited from volunteering their services to businesses in exchange for work experience.

The Department of Labor has carved out exceptions for student learners and trainees. However, if an employer gains an immediate advantage from the services provided by a volunteer, the Department of Labor will consider the volunteer to be an employee and require that the individual be paid the minimum wage.

The restrictions on volunteer activities are intended to safeguard against employer coercion. Protecting workers from unscrupulous employers is an important goal and must be preserved in our labor laws. However, the current immediate advantage test is too restrictive and should be altered.

The Job Skills Development Act eases the restrictions on volunteer activities without jeopardizing the important safeguards against employer coercion and worker displacement. These changes will help recent college graduates and individuals who have been out of the work force develop professional skills and gain experience.

Today, individuals face many obstacles in landing good jobs. Unfortunately, the FLSA imposes unnecessary burdens on ambitious individuals. Allowing businesses to provide opportunities for volunteers will benefit both employers and individuals attempting to break into a crowded job field.

Capitol Hill provides an excellent example of the benefits of allowing individuals to volunteer their services to employers. Young individuals participating in unpaid congressional internships gain a better understanding of the legislative process, develop office skills and make contacts that are invaluable in securing employment.

In my Washington office, six of my eight employees were unpaid interns before landing jobs on Capitol Hill. Two of my staffers volunteered in my office for several months before they were hired on as full-time paid employees. Both of these individuals have been promoted twice during the last year.

Because these two staffers were recent college graduates and produced work that benefited my office during their internships, they would have been prohibited from volunteering their services if I would have been forced to comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

On the opening day of the 104th Congress, we passed legislation that brings